

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 were pending in the application at the time the present Office Action was mailed. Claims 2-10, 19, and 24-27 have been amended. More specifically, claims 2 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2 and 25 have not been substantively amended or narrowed, and any subsequent rejection of these claims on new grounds cannot be made final. Claims 3-10 and 24, 26, and 27 have been amended solely to change the dependencies of these claims. Claims 1, 21, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, divisional, reissue, or other application. Accordingly, claims 2-20, 22, and 24-31 remain pending in the application.

In the Office Action mailed January 12, 2005, claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,892,357 to Moe ("Moe"). The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on March 28, 2005 to discuss the present Office Action and the Moe reference. The following remarks summarize and expand upon the results of the interview, and they also reflect the agreements reached between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner during the interview. For example, the following remarks reflect the Examiner's acknowledgment that Moe cannot support a Section 102 rejection of independent claim 2 and claims depending therefrom.

A. Response to the Section 102 Rejection of Claims 1-31

Claims 1-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Moe. Claims 1, 21, and 23 have been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot. As stated above, the Examiner acknowledged during the March 28 interview that Moe cannot support a Section 102 rejection of independent claim 2. Therefore, the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-10 depend from base claim 2. As discussed above, claim 2 is allowable. Therefore, claims 3-10 are allowable as depending from claim 2, and also because of the additional features of these dependent claims. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 3-10 should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 11, 19, 25, and 28 include several features generally similar to claim 2 (e.g., at least one grip portion positioned to contact the fuselage of the aircraft). Accordingly, these claims are allowable over Moe for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 2, and for the additional features of these claims. Furthermore, during the March 28 interview the Examiner agreed that Moe cannot support a rejection of these independent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 11, 19, 25, and 28 should be withdrawn.

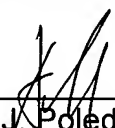
Claims 12-18 depend from base claim 11, claims 20 and 22 depend from base claim 19, claims 24, 26 and 27 depend from base claim 25, and claims 29-31 depend from base claim 28. Accordingly, Moe cannot support a Section 102 rejection of claims 12-18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, and 29-31 for at least the reason that this reference cannot support a Section 102 rejection of corresponding base claims 11, 19, 25, and 28, and for the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection of claims 12-18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, and 29-31 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3982.

Respectfully submitted,
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